RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 6th March 1996/
16th Phalguna, 1917 *(Saka)*

The House mei at eleven of the clock, Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri Robin Kakati, a former Member of this House, on 3rd March, 1996, at the age of 87.

Born in September, 1909, at Baliaghat village in Sibsagar District of Assam, Shri Robin Kakati had his education at Guwahati. He left his studies in 1930 and joined the Civil Disobedience Movement led by Mahatma Gandhi and underwent imprisonment several times during the freedom struggle. A social worker, Shri Kakati was associated with various social organisations and was engaged in Gandhiji's rural reconstruction programme, cottage industry and other rural development works. He was President of the I.N.T.U.C, Assam Branch, from 1960 to 1965; Assam State Co-operative Union, from 1953 to 1971; and Assam State Rural Workers' Union, from 1975 to 1977. Shri Kakati was also President of the Assam Freedom Fighters Association.

Shri Kakati started his legislative career with the membership of the Assam Legislative Assembly from 1952 to 1957. He represented the State of Assam in this House from April, 1962 to April, 1968; and again fromApril, 1978 to April, 1984. Shri Kakati also served as a Member of the Fifth Lok Sabha from 1971 to 1977. In the passing away of Shri Robin Kakati, the country has lost a veteran freedom fighter and a distinguished Parliamentarian.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Robin Kakati.

I request Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Secretary-General will convey to the members of the bereaved family our sense of profound sorrow and deep sympathy.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 81.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Question No. 81, Sir.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this question has become infructuous. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: No, no. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: This House has already passed the Statutory Resolution recommending extension of President's rule in U.P. *(Interruptions)*

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : एक्सटेंशन का इससे क्या मतलब हैं? ...(**व्यवधान**)...

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: That is the basic question here. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Elections have not become infructuous. *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): Sir, do you want me to say something now?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think we can discuss it after the question is answered.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. MEUINLUNG KAMSON): Sir, the Statutory Resolution in this regard was passed in this House on 1.3.96. Therefore, the question has already been replied to, in a way.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the answer be read out first.

Assembly Elections in Uttar Pradesh

*81. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the President's Rule in Uttar Pradesh would come to an end on 17th April, 1996 on expiry of the six months period;

(b) whether Government have intimated to the Election Commission to take timely action to hold Assembly Elections before the expiry of the period;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when Government propose to move in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (4) The Government have moved a Resolution in the Parliament for the continuance of the President's Rule in the State beyond April, 17, 1996. A decision about the Assembly elections in the State will be taken in due course after

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : श्रीमन्, यह जवाब स्वयं जवाब दे रहा हैं कि सरकार का इरादा राजनीतिक दृष्टि से लाभ उठाने का था। मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह पूछना चाहूंगा कि अक्तूबर में जब राष्ट्रपति शासन लागू किया गया था तब से दिसम्बर, जनवरी और फरवरी के महीनों में आपने इलेक्शन कमीशन को चुनाव कराने के लिए क्यों नहीं कहा? इलेक्शन कमीशन ने आपके कब तक चिट्ठी लिखी और आपने कब उनको जवाब दिया और अगर कोई जवाब नहीं दिया तो क्यों नहीं दिया?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Sir, as far as holding the elections before the due date is concerned, it is not possible because of a number of factors involved in it. If it is so near after the imposition of the President's Rule, then, things would have continued in the same fashion as they were continuing before. That is why the Governor, in his recent reply also, referred to the same thing. That is why we did not write to the Election Commission. I am not aware whether the Election Commission wrote to me. I am not aware of it just now. That will not be part of this question. That is why I am saying that I will have to find it out. I am not in a position to say whether the Election Commission wrote to us and what kind of reply we gave them.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : श्रीमन् यह गृह मंत्री का यह कहना कि मुझे मालूम नहीं हैं कि इलेक्शन कमीशन ने चिट्ठी लिखी या नहीं लिखी, दुनियां जानती हैं कि लिखी लेकिन इन्होने जवाब नहीं दिया। मेरा आरोप यह हैं कि कोई भी स्थिति उत्तर प्रदेश में ऐसी नहीं थी जिसमें चुनाव नहीं हो सकते थे। मैं गृह मंत्री महोदय से सीधी बात यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या पुलिस ने ऐसी रिपोर्ट दी थी कि वहां पर लॉ एंड आर्डर की स्थिति खराब हैं और अगर नहीं दी थी तो आपने किस बुनियाद पर यह तय किया कि वहां चुनाव नहीं हो सकते हैं। यह कहना कि गवर्नर की रिपोर्ट हैं, गवर्नर की रिपोर्ट केवल इस बात पर होती हैं कि असेम्बली बन सकती हैं या नहीं बन सकती हैं, मेजोरिटी किसी की हैं या नहीं हैं, चुनाव कब होंगे या नही होगे, यह अधिकार गवर्नर को नहीं हैं। अगर आपने गवर्नर को यह अधिकार दिया हैं तो मैं यह चाहूंगा कि आपने गलती की हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि कौन सी ऐसी घटनाएं इन चार पांच महीनों में उत्तर प्रदेश में हुई जिनके कारण चुनाव करा सकने की स्थिति नहीं थी? आप कश्मीर में चुनाव कराने के लिए तैयार हैं। इलेक्शन कमीशन वहां जा कर कहता हैं। आपने इलेक्शन कमीशन से कहा कि चुनवा होना चाहिये। अब आप बताइये कि उत्तर प्रदेश में ऐसा आपने क्यों नहीं किया? What is the postion? सीधी बात यह हैं कि आप केवल राजनीतिक दृष्टि से लाभ उठाना चाहते हैं और आपने उठाया हैं। मैं पूछना चाहूंगा कि कौन से सर्कमस्टांसेज थे जो आपने यह कहा हैं कि वेरियस सर्कमस्टांसेज थे।What are those circumstances? क्या पुलिस की रिपोर्ट हैं कि दंगे हुए हैं, झगड़े हुए हैं, इकैतियां पड़ी हैं? क्या हुआ? What is the position?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Sir, after this House has passed the Resolution, we are trying to go back on why it was not done! The entire thing was before the House. In spite of that, the House, in its wisdom, passed the Resolution extending the President's Rule. I do not know how we can go back on this.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Sir, I seek your protection.

यह कहना कि रेजोल्यूशन पास हो गया हैं, इसका अर्थ यह नहीं हैं कि हम जानने का अधिकार नहीं रखते।

It is my right to know this.

सदन को और हिन्दुस्तान की जनता को अधिकार हैं यह जानने का कि आपने इलेक्शन क्यों नहीं कराए?

What are the circumstances? It is my right to know this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: At the time when the Resolution was before the House, the Government would have explained why they wanted it. ...*(Interruptions)*

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : यह नहीं था। अब अगर उस वक्त नहीं पूछा तो अब हमें जानने का अधिकार क्यों नही है? यह सवाल हैं, आप कहते हैं कि यह सवाल रिडेंडेंट हो गया, आप इसको स्वीकार नहीं करते। जब आपने इसे स्वीकार किया हैं तो इसका जवाब हमें चाहिये, देश को चाहिये।

What are those circumstances?

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: Whether there was a discussion earlier or not, this question has been put, and an answer must come.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: What are the circumstances?

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: Sir, whether there had been a discussion on it or not, our point is that this question has been put and an answer to this question must come.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Sir, I would like to know what the circumstances are for not holding elections there ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, what is this? He cannot say all these things.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, with due reference to Mr. Mathur, I would like to state that we cannot be managed by anybody. *(Interruptions)* Sometimes we may take a view that may coincide with that of the BJP also, but that does not mean that we have been managed by the BJP. In this case we are all for simultaneous holding of polls in principle.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: Sir, an answer to this question must come. The question has already been admitted and its answer cannot be put off.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Sir, I have just now got information that the Election Commission wrote to us sometime in the last week of February, 1996 asking us whether we proposed to extend the President's Rule. No. specific question about dates or a proposal for holding elections was asked. We replied that we were asking for an extension of President's Rule. *(Interruptions)*

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : सभापति महोदय, उत्तर प्रदेश की जनता के साथ अन्याय हुआ हैं, असेम्बली और पार्लियामेंट के चुनाव नहीं हो रहे हैं। बहुत से राज्यों में केन्द्र सरकार ने और खास तौर जम्मू काश्मीर में चुनाव कराने का ऐलान किया था लेकिन चुनाव आयोग ने वहां की परिस्थति देखकर चुनाव टालने की घोषणा कर दी । यही मेरा सवाल हैं कि क्या सरकार राज्यपाल नहीं, राज्यपाल माने केन्द्र सरकार, चुनाव आयोग के विवेक पर छोड़ देगी कि वहां की परिस्थितियों का आंकलन करके लोकसभा और विधान सभा का चुनाव साथ साथ कराएं। आपने एक सलाहकार परिषद नियुक्त की थी उत्तर प्रदेश के कुछ सदस्यों को लेकर और ऐसे ही मान्यवर, लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ने भी वहां के उत्तर प्रदेश के सदस्यों को लेकर की थी। कभी भी वह सलाहकार परिषद बैठती नहीं, "बी" राज्यपाल कानून और व्यवस्था के बारे में पार्लियामेंटर के मेम्बर्स की जो कमेटी बनी हैं, उससे सलाह नहीं करते और मनमानी करते हैं तथा "सी" उत्तर प्रदेश के राज्यपाल हवाला कांड मे आरोपी है, उनका नाम हैं। क्या सरकार इस पर भी विचार करेगी कि किसी आरोपी के रहते हुए लोकसभा या विधान सभा का चुनाव नहीं कराया जाना चाहिए और उसके पहले राज्यपाल हटाएगी।

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : माननीय सभापति जी, 17 अप्रैल तक वहां पर राष्ट्रपति शासन था जिसके लिए राज्य

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Sir, in fact, I had this information about constituting a Committee of both the Houses of Parliament. The date on which this committee was constituted came subsequently. The President had issued the order earlier than the dates when the Committee was constituted by both die Houses. On that question, I have full information with me. In fact, we have not violated any of those things.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will you leave it to the discretion of the Election Commission?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: I don't think. The practice, as it has been so far, is that both the Government and the Election Commission together have been consulting each other and thereafter taking the decision. So, the question of passing on everything to the Election Commission does not arise.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: What about the Governor accused in the Hawala case?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: So long as it is merely an allegation, I do not think that in the matter of the Governor . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: So many Ministers have resigned.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: That is a different thing. It is entirely for either the Governor or the Minister. If they think it proper, they can act on their own. But we cannot possibly force the issue on them.

3f सभा ने प्रस्ताव पारित कर दिया। लोकसभा कर ही देगी अगर नहीं किया हैं। लेकिन अखबारों में चर्चा आ रही हैं कि 11वीं लोकसभा के लिए चुनाव अप्रैल के अंत में या मई के शुरू में होने जा रहे हैं। अभी गृह मंत्री जी ने घोषण की थी 3-4 दिन में सरकार चुनाव आयोग को इस संबंध में लिख देगी ...(**व्यवधान**)... तो 17 अप्रैल के बाद ही लोकसभा के चुनाव होंगे। 6 महीने का आपने जरूर समय ले लिया हैं राष्ट्रपति शासन के लिए ... तो अब उस में क्या दिक्कत हैं, क्या कठिनाई हैं? जब चुनाव आयोग ने बराबर इस बात की घोषणा की है कि आप 6 विधान सभाओं के और लोकसभा के चुनाव साथ-साथ कराएं तो आप को क्या कठिनाई हैं? पहले तो कठिनाई मैं समझ सकता था कि लोकसभा के चुनाव नहीं हो रहे थे और 17 अप्रैल के बाद वहां राष्ट्रपति शासन लाना चाहिए था, लेकिन अब आप को क्या कठिनाई हैं जब आप को सदन से अनुमति मिल गयी हैं और लोकसभा से भी मिल जाएगी। तो लोकसभा के साथ-साथ अप्रैल के अंत या मई के शुरू में वहां आप चुनाव कराएं?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Sir, I had already explained the entire position when the resolution was before the House. There are no other considerations in view. It is because of some practical difficulties—deployment of forces, availability of accommodation and the number of personnel required. I had explained this at great length. I do not think I need repeat the same thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम : सभापति जी, कल चुनाव आयोग ने यह कहा हैं कि अगर यू.पी. में चुनाव कराना चाहें तो हम चुनाव कराने के लिए तैयार हैं। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Sir, I want those reasons. ...*(Interruptions)*. Sir, I want those reasons which were stated by the Home Minister when the resolution was discussed. I want a reply to my question. There should be a reply.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Sir, I am repeating the same thing. I had stated all the three things that day. I am repeating them. If the conditions were to change, if there are certain new practices in the administration of Uttar Pradesh brought to the notice of the Government, we are not precluding the possibility. That is why the reply is that taking all practices into consideration, a decision would be taken. That is the kind of reply. I am giving that reply, Sir.

डा. मुरली मनोहर जोशी : सभापति जी, मुझे गृह मंत्री महोदय से दो बातों की जानकारी प्राप्त करनी हैं। एक बात यह कि जो सलाहकार परिषद बनायी गयी, आज तक उस की कोई बैठक नहीं हुई। जब बैठक नहीं हुई, तो क्यों बनायी गयी हैं और बिना सलाहकार परिषद् के उत्तर प्रदेश के राज्यपाल को राज्य की वास्तविक स्थिति का पता कैसे चलेगा? आखिर जन-प्रतिनिधियों के द्वारा ही उन्हे जनता की क्या इच्छा हैं, जनता की क्या परिस्थिति हैं, वह पता लग सकती हैं। केवल अपनी सरकारी एजेंसियों पर ही सरकार को निर्भर नहीं करना चाहिए। दूसरे यह कि आप बता रहे हैं कि कुछ विशेष कारण हैं, कुछ विशेष परिस्थितियां हैं तो क्या आप ने उन्हें सलाह दी हैं कि वहां चुनाव कराइए? आप क्यों नहीं सलाह दे रहे हैं उनको कि चुनाव कराइए? केवल इसलिए कि राज्यपाल नहीं बोल रहे हैं, लेकिन शासन तो राष्ट्रपति का हैं। केन्द्र सरकार यहां खुद फैसला ले सकती हैं कि चुनाव साथ-साथ होंगे। आप ऐसी सलाह क्यों नहीं दे रहे हैं? फिर वहां कौन-कौन से कारण हैं जिन की वजह से आप यह सलाह नहीं दे रहे हैं? क्या पुलिस की रिपोर्ट आई हैं? क्या इंटेलीजेंस एजेंसीज ने आप को कुछ ऐसी रिपोर्ट्स दी हैं कि उत्तर प्रदेश में चुनाव करने में बहुत बड़ी मात्रा में लॉ एण्ड ऑर्डर डिस्टर्व हो जाएगा? अभी तक तो वहां कोई ऐसी घटना नहीं हुई है। शासन भी ठीक चल रहा हैं। तो इस सब के होते हुए आप दोनों चुनाव एक साथ कराने की घोषणा क्यों नहीं करते?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: With regard to the first part of the question, there seems to be some kind of a misconception about the jurisdiction of the Committee. The Committee comprising Members from both the Houses is only meant for legislative purposes. The powers which have been given to the President have to be exercised in consultation with this Committee. But the period of the Ordinance was going to expire before the date on which this Committee was constituted. And that is why we had to issue the ordinance through the President. Thereafter, on every legislation, for legislative purposes, certainly we try to consult the Committee constituted for the purpose.

As for the remaining part of the question as to what advice we should give, I do not think this is the proper forum to say as to what kind of advice we should give or should not.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Are you going to advise on holding elections simultaneously?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: I do not want to say anything on that.

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR: Sir, Uttar Pradesh is one of the best ruled States in the country. And, for the first time, in Uttar Pradesh there is no communal or caste strife. Nor is there any other agitation. The people of Uttar Pradesh are very peace-loving. We held elections in 1989 and in 1991. We held elections for Parliament as well as the state Assembly simultaneously. I do not find any justification in it when the Home Minister says that it is not feasible now. Now we have judicial governance i.e. rule by the Judiciary in the Centre. But, in Uttar Pradesh, we are having the Home Minister's governance because Governor's rule practically means the Home Minister's rule. In other words the Home Minister rules the State. But I would suggest and request the Home Minister that he could tell the Election Commission to allow a popular and democratic Government in the State of Uttar Pradesh. So far as my information goes, the Chief Election Commissioner is ready because in every village, in every hamlet, in every polling station, you will have polls for the Lok Sabha. Then why don't you have simultaneous elections to the State Assembly also? What is the hitch? Why is the Home Minister so much afraid of having simultaneous elections to the State Assembly? In respect of Haryana, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, you are going to have simultaneous elections. Then why don't you have simultaneous elections in Uttar Pradesh also? Why are you denying the people of Uttar Pradesh the basic fundamental right to have a popular democratic Government?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Sir, the hon. Member, Shri Fotedarji, was not present when the Resolution was discussed in the House. Otherwise, he would not have asked the same question here again. In fact, whether there is communal tension in the State of Uttar Pradesh or not, is a matter about which he knows much more than I know. So, there are some issues about which I think it will not be possible for me to say anything. The general view that we have been holding elections to Parliament and State Assemblies together is not correct. Actually, we had taken a conscious decision that if these two elections are held together, then the local issues creep in and the national issues are not discussed at all. So, our interest in separating the two was to clearly ask for a mandate on an issue, which, in fact, is agitating the mind of everybody concerned. That day I said in reply that this was the basic issue on which we would like to have a clear mandate without it being mixed up with all other local issues. The local issues should be separated. But your point is quite understandable that the Election Commission seems to be holding the view—might be, because of other considerations—that we will have to go in for holding elections simultaneously in some of the other States. Why we are taking a different kind of a stand only in the case of U.P., that I will explain. In fact, these are two major States in the country—U.P and Bihar— ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR: Not Tamil Nadu?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: No, Tamil Nadu is no comparison so far as U.P. is concerned. My friend, Mr. Mathur, will get upset if I again refer to some of the things which do happen in those areas. That is why we would like to have a clear verdict on this. We would not like to leave any kind of scope for manoeuvring it in such a manner that the poorer sections of society are deprived of their right to franchise. Let them give their verdict clearly. But still I do not preclude it I still say and the reply is very clear that we will take all facts into consideration and thereafter will send our advice to the Election Commission as to what the views of the Government are.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Members are demanding that elections to the U.P. State Assembly should be held simultaneously with the Lok Sabha poll. The Home Minister, while replying to the debate, had stated in this House.. .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: You were presiding over the House at that time.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Yes, I was presiding over there. That is why I remember distinctly that you had stated in this House that elections to the U.P. State Assembly would be

held before 17th of October when its term expires. Now, may I know from the Home Minister why he is playing hide and seek with this House as well as the nation? You are not going to hold elections to Lok Sabha even in the month of May. Sir, I say this on the basis of information about a discussion which is scheduled to be held in the meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Finance, on 11th of March this year, where the agenda is: "General Budget 1996-97". You are going to discuss the Budget and invite suggestions from the hon. Members of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Finance on 11th of March regarding the regular Budget for 1996-97. That means, this Government intends to bring a regular Budget. That means, the Government does not want to hold elections before July for which a Vote on Account is to be passed. You want to go ahead, August, September or October. What is this intention? Why don't you make it clear? Is it not a fact that you are going to hold a meeting on 1 lth of March? We have received the agenda papers. Members have received the agenda papers. Dr. Ashok Mitra told me just now; we have signed letter to the Finance Minister, some of us who are members of this Committee, saying that it is highly improper for the Government to hold discussions on the General Budget in March when they are going to hold elections before the Vote on Account period is over.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Sir, it is rather difficult for me ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Your intentions are not *bona fide.* You are not going to hold the Lok Sabha polls in May even.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: It is rather difficult for me to say as to what transpires there or what kind of a notice was issued by the Finance Ministry.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: I say. this is the notice.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: All right. Even presuming ...*(Interruptions)*... Even presuming that such kind of notice has been given by the Finance Ministry, asking for your opinion on the Budget which, in fact, is going to be presented ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Mr. Chairman, the Government is responsible for that. ...*(Interruptions)*... Whichever Ministry has issued the notice, that is also his responsibility.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Let him explain.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: If the Budget is going to be presented in July, 1996, and if they have asked for your opinion, it might be that they are so confident that this Government is going to continue and they are asking for your suggestions.. .*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, this is very unfair. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us go to Q. No. 82. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have gone to the next question. ...*(Interruptions)*... Q. No. 82.

Agencies Hiring Accommodation for Hajis

*82. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the agencies which hire accommodation for Indian Hajis at Mecca and Madina in Saudi Arabia;

(b) the procedure laid down for hiring the accommodation by Government;

(c) whether the Haj Committee has appointed any agent for hiring accommodation, during this year;

(d) whether it has come to the notice of Government that Press reports have appeared stating that nearly Rs. 100 crores are involved in the deal and lot of corruption has been alleged in the deal; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Accommodation for Indian Haj pilgrims in Saudi Arabia is hired by the Consulate General of India, Jeddah, with the good offices of the Moassassa of South Asian countrires constituted by the Government of Saudi Arabia. The procedure followed is that the Building Renting Delegation of the Central Haj Committee holds discussions with the Saudi